

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1 and 4-13 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 4-7 and 10 have been amended. Claims 11-13 have been added. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McLaren, U.S. Patent No. 985,194. Claims 1 and 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wargo, U.S. Patent No. 5,385,348. Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tunstall, U.S. Patent No. 4,695,054. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLaren. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "the vibration-absorbable filling material sealing the opening of the recess" and "the vibration-absorbable filling material... selected from a group consisting of resins,

high molecular polymer materials, rubber, thermoplastic elastomers, polyurethane elastomeric filling materials, carbon fibers, light alloys, and adhesive composite powders thereof". Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

McLaren discloses a golf club head with leaden disks and a wooden plug 4 in the cavity 1 (see FIG. 2). Wargo discloses a golf club head having a tubular sleeve 48 with steel balls 69 and an insert 30 (see FIGs. 5 and 6). Tunstall disclose a golf club head having a base 10 fixed to the head by a screw 20; Tunstall also teaches the base 10 has two bores 30 for receiving the barrels 34, the weights 32, and the compressible means 36 (see FIGs. 2 and 3).

Although these references utilized by the Examiner teach that the wooden plug 4 (McLaren), the insert 30 (Wargo), and the base 10 (Tunstall) seal the opening of the recess in the golf club head, none of these references individually or in combination teach or suggest that any one of the wooden plug 4, the insert 30, and the base 10 uses one of the vibration-absorbable filling materials recited in claim 1.

Although the Examiner indicated that the compressible means 36 of Tunstall has a plastic form, the compressible means 36 is

inside the bores 30 of the base 10 and does not seal the opening of the recess as recited in claim 1 (see FIG. 2). In other words, it is the base 10, not the compressible means 36, sealing the opening of the recess. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tunstall's teachings of the material of the compressible means 36 is irrelevant because the compressible means 36 is not "the vibration-absorbable filling material sealing the opening of the recess" as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claim 1 or its dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 11-13 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim 11 recites "the plurality of grooves fail to encircle the perimeter wall". This claim 11 depends on claim 4. This embodiment is shown in FIG. 6 of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that this recitation of claims 4

and 11 provides for a feature which can firmly secure the filling material. The partial grooves of claim 11 are not disclosed in the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Although Wargo discloses a threaded opening 38, the threads of the threaded opening 38 form a complete circle (see FIGs. 3-6). McLaren and Tunstall also fail to teach this recitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable due to the above recitation, as well as due to its ultimate dependence on independent claim 1.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 12 and 13 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claim 1, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 11-13 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 11-13 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

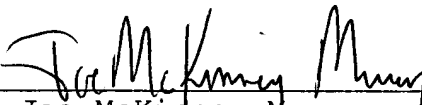
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334

KM/GH/mmi/asc
3624-0134P

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000